

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 9, 2015

The Jasper County Board of Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Kendell Culp, Richard E. Maxwell and James A. Walstra. Also present was Auditor, Kimberly K. Grow; Deputy Auditor, Donna J. Horner; Highway Engineer/Supervisor, Jack R. Haberlin and the Attorney who represents the Commissioners, Eric Beaver. The meeting was called to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Allen Wortley, Veteran of the US Marine Corps, 1967-1971.

PAYROLL CLAIM & ALLOWANCE DOCKET(S): Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the Payroll Claim & Allowance Dockets for the check dates equal to June 15, 2015 and June 30, 2015. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

MINUTES: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 1, 2015. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

BURIED CABLE PERMIT: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the following buried cable permit submitted by CenturyLink.

CENTURYLINK:

ACT# 14045073 For the purpose of placing new service in Walker Township.
There is no tile in the area. (Permit # 703)

HIRING REQUESTS / PROSECUTOR: Christine Haskell, Prosecutor, requested permission to replace the current part-time Investigator who recently turned in his resignation effective Friday, July 10, 2015. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the request to refill the part-time position. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. Haskell also requested permission to hire a part-time Deputy Prosecutor to work solely on child support matters. The Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council suggested that the counties look at ways to supplement the child support program with the incentive funds that we currently have. We currently have over \$200,000.00 in the Prosecutor's Incentive Fund account. This fund is very limited as to what the money can be spent on; however, they have indicated that you can use the fund to supplement your program or hire part-time Prosecutors and/or staff members for the program. This position would be solely paid from the Prosecutor's Incentive Fund. We receive approximately \$5,000.00 within the fund every quarter. Ms. Haskell stated that she anticipates that this person would work approximately 10 hours per week. Mr. Maxwell asked what kind of fees you plan on paying? Ms. Haskell replied that, looking at the budget numbers, we could probably figure on anywhere from \$65.00 to \$85.00 per hour depending on experience. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

REQUEST TO REPLACE POSITION / ANIMAL SHELTER: Kyler Laird, Animal Control Board, requested permission to replace the Animal Control Director based on a recent resignation. The Animal Control Board has recommended Mitzi Risner, Animal Control Assistant, for the Director position with a 6-month probationary period. Pauline Boring, Animal Control Board, stated that the intent was to do a review at 6-months and if Ms. Risner was not meeting the requirements of what we felt was necessary to be Director; she would be demoted back to full-time Animal Control Officer. Concern was expressed if the probationary period were to not work out. You cannot demote the employee who is placed in the Animal Control Officer position. Ms. Boring suggested that rather than hire a new full-time Animal Control Officer, a part-time employee be hired during the 6-month period. Mr. Laird stated that he would personally like to see more part-time staff. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to allow Animal Control to move the Assistant Director up to Probationary Director and to hire a part-time Animal Control Officer. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

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VACATION EXTENSION / ANIMAL CONTROL: Kyler Laird, Animal Control Board, requested permission to allow Mitzi Risner to extend her vacation while they are short staffed. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the request to extend vacation days until the end of the year. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PART-TIME EMPLOYEE / PAID BREAKS: Kyler Laird, Animal Control Board, requested guidance in regards to breaks for part-time employees? Mr. Laird stated that the current part-time employee works long hours on occasion. Are they entitled to paid breaks when they are scheduled for a shift that is less than eight hours? Mr. Culp replied, "No, he doesn't believe so."

U.S. EPA BROWNFIELDS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND PETROLEUM ASSESSMENT GRANT: Edwin Buswell, KIRPC, stated that the Commissioners signed off to be a Coalition Partner on our Brownfield Assessment Grant. We found out in June that we were awarded the grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 (\$300,000.00 in Hazardous Substance and \$200,000.00 in Petroleum). Mr. Buswell submitted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will need to be signed by all eight (8) counties as well as KIRPC. No monetary match is required. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to the Brownfield Assessment Grant. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

BID OPENING / KATOLIGHT GENERATOR: A bid opening took place for the sale of a used, county-owned Katolight Generator. No bids were received. The generator will be placed on the county auction with a minimum purchase price.

LEGAL DEED ACCEPTANCE WITHOUT SURVEYS: Adam Lyons, Surveyor's Office, explained that he began drawing the parcels in February. When a new split occurs, the only thing required to make that split is a legal deed. Generally, this is not a big deal as far as the drawing and splitting of the parcel. The problem that we are beginning to experience is with the deeds creating problem parcels. Examples of some of the current problem parcels were displayed. In one of the examples, the person purchased the entire property; however, in order to build a house, they were required to split off a smaller parcel. By doing this, a parcel was created with a house on it that now has no road access. Mr. Lyons stated that it was the idea of the GIS Team to require them to submit and record a legal survey with the deed when a parcel is split. Attorney Beaver will research further.

RESTRICTED ADDRESSES POLICY: Bill Batley, IT, stated that the State has imposed some new laws in reference to restricted addresses in the GIS systems. An example of Tippecanoe County's policy was distributed for review. Mr. Batley stated that basically if you are a Judge, Law Enforcement Officer, Victim of Domestic Violence or Public Official, the new law states that you can have your address removed from the online GIS system. Attorney Beaver will review the example policy.

PROPERTY & CASUALTY RENEWAL: Stace Pickering, Consolidated Insurance, distributed and reviewed a summary of the property and casualty renewal. The total blanket amount of all of the property is a little over \$44 million. Those were updated 4% from last year. The Worker's Compensation, which is a payroll-based rate, was increased 2% from last year. The cost per employee in 2014/2015 for Worker's Compensation was \$612.00. The average claim cost is down from the last two years. The total net premium is down approximately \$1,000.00 from last year. Mr. Pickering offered an alternate quote for auto changing deductibles. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to choose the alternate quote for deductibles to \$500.00 for Comp and \$500.00 for Collision for auto. The increase will be \$1,223.00 per year. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the renewal for the county insurance. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

NIPSCO / ROAD RELOCATION: In regards to the NIPSCO road relocation, Mr. Haberlin stated that a motion was previously made to use Butler, Fairman & Seufert. At this time, I would like to have that motion rescinded. No agreements have yet to be signed. A summary of the data collected so far as well as the cost of using different individuals was distributed to the Commissioners. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to rescind the previous motion of naming Butler, Fairman & Seufert as the engineering firm to design the road relocation for CR 250E in Kankakee Township. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

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CLAIMS: Mr. Culp stated that this would probably be the last month for the monthly maintenance check to the hospital. Also discussed was a claim from A&L, Inc. in the amount of \$6,695.00. At the June meeting, the Commissioners approved an amount of \$4,995.00 for landscaping at the Community Services building. When the claim was received, \$1,700.00 was added on for additional landscaping work. The decision was made to pay the approved \$4,995.00 amount and to hold the \$1,700.00 until further clarification is received. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the claims as submitted with the exception of the claim to A&L, Inc. in the amount of \$1,700.00 and the claim to Dave Long Insurance in the amount of \$3,411.00. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND / TRANSFER: Auditor Grow requested permission to transfer \$12,000.00 within the Cumulative Bridge Fund for computer software for the Highway Department. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the transfer. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

E911 SYSTEM: Sheriff Risner reported that the new 911 system has been installed. Ryan King, 911 Director, reported that we are currently operating under the new system. We still have a couple more days of clean-up from the phone company to fine tune some of the configuration files and to clean up the server room on the cabling. Everything is up and functional as of now. Mr. Culp asked what the projected life is for the equipment? Mr. King replied that five (5) years is as long as they will maintain it; however, it is usually closer to six (6) or seven (7) years by the time you negotiate a new system. They will continue to maintain the equipment as long as you are in the process of negotiations. In the future, this equipment has the capability of handling text to 911. It is still in development so we are looking early to mid next year.

REQUEST TO REFILL POSITION / SHERIFF: Sheriff Risner stated that Detective Foerg will be retiring effective July 15 after just over 17 years of service with the department. This position will be filled with an experienced officer from within the department. Once this position is filled, there will be a Merit Deputy position open. Permission was requested to fill this position. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the request to fill the vacant Merit Deputy position. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

COMPRESSION BRAKING / ORDINANCE: Discussion took place at the June meeting in regards to an issue with compression braking disturbing the residences located at SR 14 and US 231. The State does have a statute that has been implemented this year that says that it is illegal to operate a vehicle without a muffler compression braking system. Sheriff Risner will be contacting the State Motor Carrier Division. If the statute is enforceable, we can put a warning sign up without having to put it under a county ordinance. Attorney Beaver did contact the LaPorte division of INDOT; however, he has not yet received a return phone call. It does appear that they will put up the signs. Attorney Beaver stated that essentially with the new law that became effective on July 1, I think the intention statewide is to reduce the noise that trucks with compression brakes have but I don't see where that would actually have any effect on an ordinance about the use of those compression brakes at a certain intersection. Further review will be done.

JAIL FACILITY / UPDATE: Kurt Stevens, KB Solutions, reported that representatives from Daikin will be here tomorrow morning to completely redo the controls on the cassettes. There was some confusion about how the air inlet to the cassette was supposed to be set up. Some changes will be made there. There has also been a little bit of a humidity issue at the facility.

YEARLY REPORT / HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the yearly report as submitted by Jack Haberlin, Highway Engineer. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Haberlin reported that, as far as budgeting next year, MVH will remain the same. There will possibly be a 2% increase in the LR&S. The LR&S was created for the cities rather than the counties.

DISTRICT MEETING / RECORDER: Beth Warren, Recorder, has requested permission to attend the Northwest & Northeast District County Recorder's Meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 11 in Middlebury. The registration fee is \$35.00 per person. The accommodations and registration will be paid out of the Continuing Education Fund. The county car will be used. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

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AIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Vickie Bozell, Clerk; Kim Grow, Auditor; Beth Warren, Recorder; and Bill Batley, IT, have requested permission to attend the AIC Annual Conference in Michigan City. The conference will be held Monday, September 21 through Thursday, September 24. Costs incurred will be lodging, registration fees and some meals. The county car will be used. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PROPERTY REQUEST / FRONT STREET: Stephanie Budd, citizen, was present to inquire into the possibility of petitioning to purchase the property located to the south of her property located on Front Street in Rensselaer. The property was originally thought to be the driveway to the home owned by Ms. Budd. Once a survey was done, it was discovered that the “driveway” is titled in the name of “Jasper County Draining Association”. Attorney Beaver will research the process that will need to be taken.

ANNUAL FLY-IN / AIRPORT: Brad Cozza, Airport Manager, reminded the Commissioners of the Annual Fly-In on Saturday, July 11 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The cost is \$6.00 for the porkchop lunch. Other items will also be available for purchase.

UPDATE / COURTHOUSE REPAIRS: Mr. Haberlin reported that the new retaining wall blocks will be ready in July. The company will take back the old ones. Once the retaining wall is complete, the inspection and repairs will take place on the slate. Mr. Haberlin contacted the gentleman who took down the old Donnelly building in regards to the removal of the foundation. The cost for removal would be approximately \$6,700.00.

LOW FINANCIAL SOFTWARE / AGREEMENT: Attorney Beaver stated that wording has been changed within the Service Agreement with LOW Financial Services since approval at last month’s meeting. The \$3,000.00 cost for direct deposit has been removed since the county will not need this service. The agreement was presented for signatures.

AMBULANCE CONTRACTS: Attorney Beaver reported that the ambulance contracts are up for renewal at the end of this year. Bids will be advertised for the September meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Walstra made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Kendell Culp, President

James A. Walstra, Vice President

Richard E. Maxwell, Member

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Jasper County Auditor

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